

New York but throughout the nation and the world.

As the leader of the New York's Catholics, he has also been influential in establishing and maintaining a series of high quality, Catholic schools throughout the city. As a graduate of parochial schools, I have been brought up with the values of the Cardinal and the Bible, and I hope that I will be able to instill these same values of family and faith into my son, Cullen, who was baptized recently in the Catholic faith.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to this great man, John Cardinal O'Connor.

May God Bless him as he undertakes his next challenge, that of battling cancer.

#### WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAMS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 16, 2000*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000, which I have introduced with several of my Colleagues, amends the Pittman-Robertson Act and the Dingell Johnson Act regarding the use of funds to administer those Acts. This bill will maintain the integrity of the two Acts by ensuring that funds used for "true administration" will be used responsibly and that funds not used for "true administration" will pass to the States for restoration projects that benefit fish and wildlife as required under the law. It will ensure that the millions of excise tax dollars from guns, ammo, archery equipment, and fishing equipment paid by sportsmen and sportswomen will go to the States for wildlife and sport fish restoration projects.

During three Congressional oversight hearings in 1999, the House Committee on Resources uncovered numerous spending improprieties involving wildlife and sport fish administrative funds by the Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Federal Aid. As much as one-half of the "administration" money may have been improperly used. This was the first time since Pittman-Robertson was passed in 1937, and since Dingell-Johnson was passed in 1950, that the administration of these Acts has been examined by Congress. Officials testifying from the non-partisan General Accounting Office were critical of the management of administrative funds by the Division of Federal Aid, stating that "the combined experience of the audit team that did this work represents about 160 years worth of audit experience. To our knowledge, this is, if not the worst, one of the worst managed programs we have encountered."

The trust has been broken between the sportsmen and sportswomen who fund the Acts through excise taxes and the Fish and Wildlife Service who were responsible for administering the Acts. At each of these hearings we learned that administrative funds were used for expenses unrelated to the administration of the Acts. We learned that administrative funds that were used for administration of the Acts were not used responsibly. We learned that if the administration of these Acts

is not properly implemented, the State wildlife and sport fish restoration suffers.

Some internal changes have already been made by the Fish and Wildlife Service in the Division of Federal Aid to address the abuses of administrative funds and we are encouraged that steps are being taken toward fixing the problems. But these are only steps, they are not permanent. Legislation is needed to clearly explain how administrative funds can and cannot be spent. In addition to taking initiative to make changes in the Division of Federal Aid, I am pleased that the Administration has been involved in working with us on this bill. The millions of dollars sportsmen and sportswomen have paid in excise taxes have to be protected. This bill offers them that much needed protection. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this measure and I intend on taking deliberate action to move this bill in my committee in March.

#### THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY ACT (H.R. 6)

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 16, 2000*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, last week the House voted on the Marriage Tax Penalty Act (H.R. 6). Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "aye." The bill passed the House with strong bipartisan support by a vote of 268-158.

I firmly believe that this Congress should enact some common sense tax reform—including ending this unfair burden on married taxpayers. Since coming to Congress, I have cosponsored legislation to address this inequity because I know that this is something we must fix. It is unfair that some couples pay an average of \$1400 more in taxes simply because they are married. So I am pleased that we can offer this common sense relief for American families.

But while I would have supported this bill, we can improve upon it as it makes its way through the legislative process. Specifically, the benefits of the bill must be targeted more directly to middle class families who are currently saddled by the marriage penalty. This will bring relief to those Americans who most need it, and free up additional resources for other critical priorities—paying down the national debt, modernizing Medicare, saving Social Security, and making investments in education, health care, the environment, and national defense.

#### S.S. OSAN, DELHI MASSACRE VICTIM, DENIED JUSTICE BY INDIA

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 16, 2000*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with yet another example of how India violates the basic human rights of its minorities and ignores the rule of law.

Sukhbir Singh Osan is a journalist in Punjab. He has exposed many scandals and acts of tyranny on the part of the Indian govern-

ment and the government of Punjab. His family suffered losses in the 1984 massacre in Delhi, which were organized by government-inspired mobs while the Sikh police were locked in their barracks and the state-run TV and radio called for more Sikh blood. He has now filed suit for his rights as a 1984 riot victim.

Sukhbir Singh Osan earned an LL.B. degree from Punjab University seven years ago but it is being withheld from him because he has exposed corruption and brutality. For his aggressive reporting, the Indian government has damaged his career in an arbitrary and vindictive manner.

Mr. Osan's situation proves that in "democratic" India the law is subservient to the wishes of those in power. The people in power routinely violate the law for their own benefit. How can a country be a democracy when the government routinely subverts the rule of law?

It is clear from the treatment of Mr. Osan and from so many other incidents involving the abuse of Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities that the only way these minorities will secure their freedom to live in peace, dignity, and security is by achieving their freedom from India. In this light, it is appropriate for the United States to take action to protect the rights of the minority peoples of the subcontinent.

If India cannot observe the rule of law even for a victim of the 1984 Delhi massacres, then why should it receive any aid from the American taxpayers? We should stop that aid, subject India to the sanctions that their terrorist rule deserves, and throw the full weight of the U.S. Congress behind a free and fair, internationally-supervised plebiscite to decide the question of independence for Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and the other nations of South Asia.

Until these things are done, there will continue to be others mistreated like Sukhbir Singh Osan, and worse. America is the beacon of freedom. How can we accept this?

Mr. Speaker, I submit the Burning Punjab article on Mr. Osan's plight into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

[From the Burning Punjab News]

#### RIOTS RUINED FAMILY, JUDICIARY HIS LIFE

Chandigarh—Sukhbir Singh Osan in a Civil Writ petition No. 14940 of 1999 filed in the Punjab & Haryana High Court has pleaded that—"he became a 'November 84 riot victim' neither by his own act nor by birth since he was just 14 years old when riots took place. He further pleaded that the failure of the executive and the law & order situation and also the failure of various provisions incorporated in the Indian Constitution, after the assassination of the then Indian Premier Indira Gandhi was the reason which placed him under the category of 'Sikh Migrant Family & Riot affected person'". The petition has been fixed for hearing on November 15, 1999 before the Chief Justice Arun B. Saharia and Mr. Justice Swatantar Kumar. Osan has demanded 'justice' in this petition.

"Punishing those who were responsible for riots in November, 1984 and to grant certain concessions to the victims of these riots are two different things?", Sukhbir Singh Osan has questioned the division bench of the High Court. The petition elaborates, how a riot victim in Sukhbir Singh Osan was harassed, his career was ruined in an arbitrary and vindictive manner and that too right under the nose of judiciary shows that justice in India is not a virtue which transcends